



## Indiana Disaster Relief Fund to Aid Citizens in 27 Counties

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The State of Indiana has begun issuing an estimated \$307,000 in payments to citizens in 27 counties who suffered damage due to severe weather in June and July. At this time, 49 checks for up to about \$2,500 are being issued. This is based on the overall dollar amount available and a projected number of applicants — 118.

“While Indiana did not qualify for disaster grants to citizens according to federal guidelines, there are many out there hurting, and our charge is to help our citizens,” said Governor Mike Pence. “The damage seen across the state as a result of this summer’s severe weather is far greater than some realize, and our state is well positioned to help ease the burden on those people still trying to recover.”

Citizens in the following counties are eligible for the grants from the Indiana State Disaster Relief Fund, which is administered by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security: Adams, Allen, Bartholomew, Blackford, Brown, Clark, Delaware, Grant, Hendricks, Huntington, Jackson, Jay, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Putnam, Ripley, Switzerland, Wabash, Wells and Whitley counties.

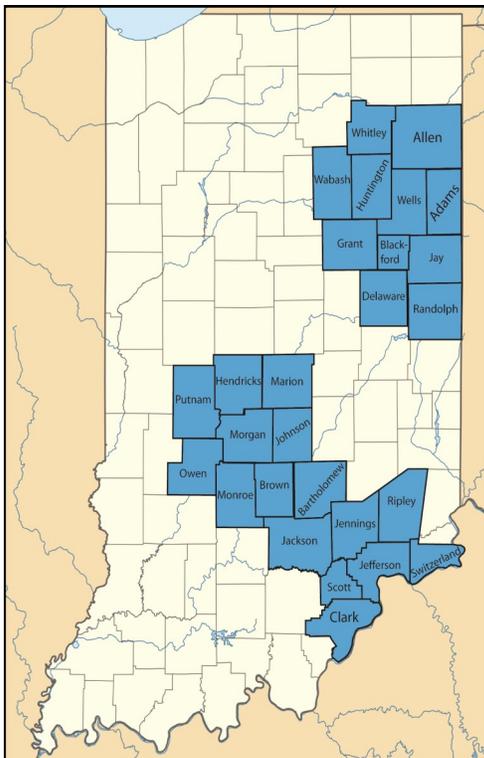
The counties qualified for U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low interest disaster loans. Applicants turned down for SBA loans are eligible for the state grants. The deadline to apply for SBA loans was October 19.

Applications for state relief will be paid according to a consistent formula until about January 20, 2016. At that time, any remaining funds will be supplementally and proportionally distributed to anyone qualifying for an amount more than the original award cap.

This process allows the state to assist qualifying applicants as soon as possible, while verifying that the funds will be available for all potentially eligible applicants.

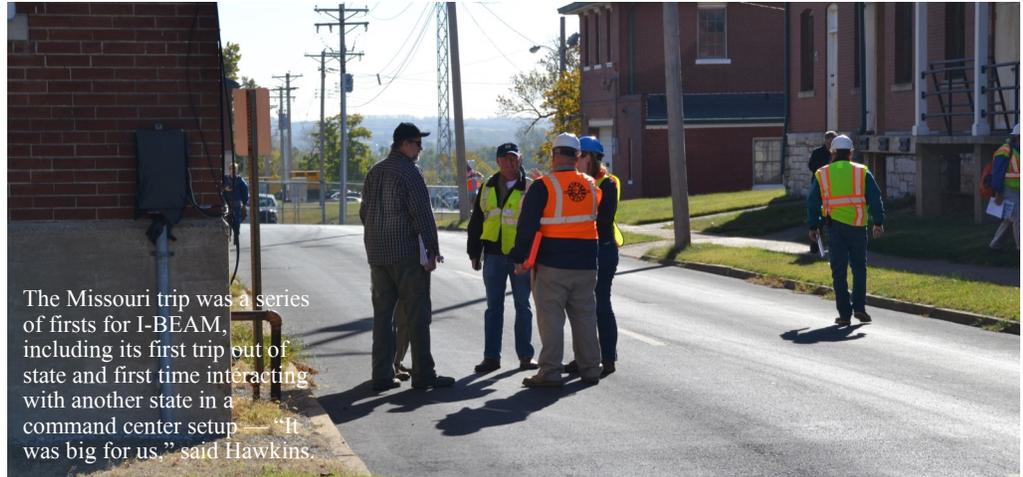
Indiana is one of the few states in the country that has a funded State Disaster Relief Fund. Established in 2003, the fund provides assistance to disaster affected individuals and governments that were not eligible for federal disaster loans, but met the state’s criteria for disaster relief. Fees from retail fireworks sales provide the funding.

Due to the severe weather experienced in June and July, residents from the counties in blue are eligible for grants from the Indiana State Disaster Relief Fund. The fund will issue more than \$300,000 (estimated) in grants until about January 20, 2016.



## Indiana Participates in Multi-State Building Assessment Exercise in Missouri

The Indiana Building Emergency Assessment and Monitoring (I-BEAM) team partnered with the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Missouri Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition for a building damage assessment exercise near St. Louis, Missouri, from October 16-17.



The exercise took place at Jefferson Barracks, a National Guard installation south of St. Louis. Training included assessing simulated building damage and testing GPS units and a smart phone app for completing inspections electronically.

The I-BEAM team consisted of 12 command team members: Jim Hawkins, David Smith, Randall Cooley, Gary House, John Reid, Stanley Adkinson, Jeffery Gabbard, Walter Knaepple, Michael Troy, Michael Barnhart, Stan Capobianco and Michael Wells.

I-BEAM operated a command center while SAVE inspectors worked in the field to practice integrating operations with another state’s team. I-BEAM then collected and compiled building reports from its assigned inspectors and forwarded that data to SAVE.

According to Jim Hawkins, Indiana Department of Homeland Security Assistant Section Chief of Code Enforcement and head of I-BEAM, the Missouri exercise was a unique experience for the team.

“This was the first time we’ve traveled a long distance out of state; it was the first time we interacted

with another state in a command system setup; it was the first time we had that many inspectors – there were 150 – take part in an exercise,” said Hawkins. “And we slept in tents on cots, ate MREs [Meals Ready-to-Eat] – which we hadn’t done before. It was big for us.”

The other states in attendance – Tennessee, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi and Arkansas – were impressed with I-BEAM.

“All the other states toured our facility and they were just oohing and ahing over what we’ve got: the tents, the communications trailer, the power system,” said Hawkins. “Everybody was really impressed with our capabilities.”

Overall, Hawkins says he’s pleased with how the trip went and believes this experience benefits I-BEAM for future deployments.

“We can pretty much feel confident going just about anywhere and responding in any conditions because we know the equipment’s good and it works, and we can adapt to whatever’s thrown at us,” said Hawkins. “It’s a big boost for everybody involved.”

*I-BEAM is comprised of volunteers from around Indiana and personnel from IDHS who have a background in building safety. After any man-made or natural event which may destabilize buildings, I-BEAM can perform structural assessments to determine whether or not buildings are safe to be used again.*

*SAVE is a group of more than 1,000 volunteer engineers, architects, building inspectors and other trained professionals who assist SEMA with post-event building damage inspections. SAVE volunteers have at least five years of professional experience in the engineering, architecture, building inspections or construction industries. Members must also take special training in rapid visual evaluation to receive SAVE certification, with re-certification every three years.*

# Henry County on High Alert...For Zombies!

Zombies – the “undead” who plod along menacingly in pursuit of living humans – have long been a staple of horror films, and in recent years have experienced a “rebirth” in terms of pop culture fascination.

Now, emergency management professionals are taking advantage of the fictional campiness of zombies to deliver serious nonfiction life-and-death messages. (Or, should that be death-and-life messages?)

The second annual Zombie Apocalypse in Henry County was held Oct. 10 in downtown Knightstown. The event featured a costumed zombie walk, games and prizes, all in pursuit of getting residents to prepare for real emergencies such as chemical releases, floods or tornadoes.

“This program offers us the ability to start conversations about preparedness,” said Ronald Huffman, director of the Henry County Emergency Management Agency.

Messages delivered to Henry County residents through Zombie Apocalypse promotional items, such as posters and coffee mugs, are:

- ◆ Build your survival kit before it’s too late.
- ◆ Prepare for zombies and survive other disasters.
- ◆ Is your Go Bag ready to go?

A Go Bag is a preparedness kit in the form of a backpack or small suitcase that includes supplies that may be needed for a few days during natural or man-made disasters. The concept is that the Go Bag is ready at all



Emergency management professionals like Henry County EMA have taken advantage of the renewed popular interest in Zombies to create fun events that teach people about real-life preparedness.



times should normal life be disrupted, or should orders come for evacuating an area or sheltering-in-place.

Huffman tells Henry County residents to study preparedness kit content suggestions online from local, state and federal agencies, but then to customize kits based on personal and family needs.

During the Zombie Apocalypse event, Huffman and first responders in Henry County try to take advantage of every opportunity to engage in conversations about preparedness. At Henry County’s inaugural zombie event in 2014, those conversations took place with residents of all ages.

“I was surprised that we had everyone from kids to senior citizens come out to participate,” Huffman said. “We seemed to have a lot of people in their 30s and 40s.”

Henry County is not alone in its efforts to use zombie enthusiasm to deliver serious messages. For example, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also has a “get prepared” campaign using the [zombie theme](#).

Although Huffman is quite willing to take advantage of pop culture fascination with zombies to teach preparedness, he is not a zombie-geek in private life.

## IDHS D1 Member First Woman to Lead FDNY IMT as 31 Indiana Public Safety Professionals Participate in Georgia Exercise for Advanced Responders

Lori Postma, Indiana Department of Homeland Security District 1 planning division, was the first woman to ever direct operations for the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Incident Management Team.

Arranged through the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Training System, Postma's groundbreaking command experience occurred at an advanced training in Georgia, which simulated a major earthquake.

Indiana's 31 participants were part of 400 of the most experienced responders in the nation allowed to participate in the exercise. The group was challenged by water rescues, collapsed buildings and bridges, as well as a subway and tunnel collapse. The exercise was primarily an FDNY all hazard incident management team exercise.

"Through work I'm accustomed to directing a staff," said Postma, who works at Franciscan Healthcare in Munster. "However, when in command of the Indiana District 1 Task Force, it's usually a staff of 18 people with 200 responders. To have that increase to such a large scale event... it's not any day that a person is able to experience that. Incident command is not a widely feminine role. There aren't a lot of people who fill that role, let alone do it well. To have this opportunity, and to be told that I did things well, it meant a lot."

Exercise participants were a mix of state and local emergency management, emergency medical, fire, law enforcement and military professionals. Their home agencies included the counties of Allen, Fountain, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, Knox, Lake, Marion, Montgomery, Porter, Ripley, Steuben, Tippecanoe and Vanderburgh. Positions they served in include incident command, incident management, liaison, operations, public information, safety, and search and rescue. Each county's participants, along with their role in the exercise, are listed below:

### ALLEN

- ◆ Christopher Walker, Fort Wayne Fire Department. During the exercise, Walker trained as a logistics section chief (LSC) and helped provide adequate facilities and resources for the participants.

### FOUNTAIN

- ◆ Joe Whitaker, Fountain County Emergency Management Agency. During the exercise, Whitaker trained as a logistics section chief (LSC) and helped to provide adequate facilities and resources for the participants.

### HAMILTON

- ◆ Jamey Burrows, Fishers Fire Department. During the exercise, Burrows trained as a liaison officer (LOFR) and worked to coordinate with representatives from multiple cooperating agencies.

- ◆ Steve Orusa, Fishers Fire Department. During the exercise, Orusa shadowed the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and observed their response operations.

### HENDRICKS

- ◆ Dave Warren, Hendricks County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). During the exercise, Warren shadowed the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and observed their response operations.

### JOHNSON

- ◆ Carey Slauter, White River Township Fire Department. During the exercise, Slauter shadowed the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and observed their response operations.

### KNOX

- ◆ Edward Gene King, Vincennes Township Fire Department. During the exercise, King trained as the operations section chief (OSC) and helped coordinate all tactics used in the incident.

### LAKE

- ◆ Fabian Martinez, Jr., Hobart Fire Department. During the exercise, Martinez shadowed the urban search and rescue (USAR) teams, observing what these technical rescue teams do during the search and extraction of missing persons.

## Georgia Exercise for Advanced Responders (Continued from Page 2)

- ◆ Gary McKay, Community Hospital located in Munster, Ind. During the exercise, McKay trained as a liaison officer (LOFR) and worked to coordinate with representatives from multiple cooperating agencies.
- ◆ Kenneth Sink, Jr., Superior EMS. During the exercise, Sink trained as the operations section chief (OSC) and helped coordinate all tactics used in the incident.
- ◆ Lori Postma, Franciscan Alliance. During the exercise, Postma trained within incident command (IC), helping to develop response strategies and working to release resources during operations.

### MARION

- ◆ Jerry Piland, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD). During the exercise, Piland shadowed the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and observed their response operations.
- ◆ Mike Woida, IMPD. During the exercise, Woida shadowed the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and observed their response operations.
- ◆ Mike Pruitt, Wayne Township Fire Department. During the exercise, Pruitt shadowed the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and observed their response operations.
- ◆ Sgt. Maj. Tony Williams, Indiana National Guard. During the exercise, Sgt. Maj. Williams shadowed the urban search and rescue teams (USAR), observing what these technical rescue teams do during the search and extraction of missing persons.
- ◆ Scott C. Huffman, Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). During the exercise, Huffman trained as the planning section chief (PSC) and worked to forecast the situation at hand and maintain the status of any needed resources during the incident.
- ◆ Mark Olson, IDHS. During the exercise, Olson trained as the logistics section chief (LSC) and helped to provide adequate facilities and resources for the participants.
- ◆ Jonathan Snell, IDHS. During the exercise, Snell trained as the finance section chief (FSC) and monitored the incident costs and financial considerations.
- ◆ James McHugh III, IDHS. During the exercise, McHugh shadowed the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and observed their response operations.
- ◆ Sean Horan, IDHS. During the exercise, Horan shadowed the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and observed their response operations.

### MONTGOMERY

- ◆ Brian Campbell, Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency. During the exercise, Campbell trained as a liaison officer (LOFR) and worked to coordinate with

representatives from multiple cooperating agencies.

- ◆ Jonathan Warren Ray Huber, Crawfordsville Fire and Rescue. During the exercise, Huber trained as a safety officer (SOFR) and was responsible for monitoring any potential safety hazards for the participants.
- ◆ Shari Lynn Harrington, Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency. During the exercise, Harrington shadowed the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and observed their response operations.

### PORTER

- ◆ Paige Connelly, Porter County Emergency Management Agency. During the exercise, Connelly trained as a liaison officer (LOFR) and worked to coordinate with representatives from multiple cooperating agencies.

### RIPLEY

- ◆ Douglas Cooke, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). During the exercise, Cooke trained as a liaison officer (LOFR) and worked to coordinate with representatives from multiple cooperating agencies.

### STEUBEN

- ◆ Jason Meek, Angola Fire Department. During the exercise, Meek trained within incident command (IC), helping to develop response strategies and working to release resources during operations.

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## Georgia Exercise for Advanced Responders (Continued from Page 3)

◆ Thomas Hagerty, Angola Fire Department. During the exercise, Hagerty trained as a public information officer (PIO) and helped to foster more consistent and effective communication among participants.

### TIPPECANOE

◆ Dave Stanley, City of Lafayette. During the exercise, Stanley trained as the finance section chief (FSC) and monitored the incident costs and financial considerations.

◆ Michael Hieatt, Lafayette Fire Department. During the exercise, Hieatt trained as the operations section chief (OSC) and helped coordinate all tactics used in the incident.

◆ Jeffrey Houston, Tippecanoe County Emergency Management Agency. During the exercise, Houston trained within incident command (IC), helping to develop response strategies and working to release resources during operations.

### VANDERBURGH

◆ Maj. Greg Motz, Indiana National Guard. During the exercise, Maj. Motz shadowed the urban search and rescue teams (USAR), observing what these technical rescue teams do during the search and extraction of missing persons.

The Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Training System is housed in the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Key agency areas leading the academy training system include the State Fire Marshal and the planning division.

## FEMA Denies Indiana's Assistance Request

On Oct. 21, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied Indiana's appeal for federal assistance to help government and certain non-profit organizations in 19 counties recover from severe storms and flooding between June 7 and July 29, 2015. At least 10 deaths in June and July were connected to the storms.

Indiana presented FEMA with more than \$11 million in confirmed damage, but FEMA upheld its earlier ruling that the state experienced two distinct weather systems.

Consequently, the allowed damage was divided into two separate incidents, which roughly halved the total for each, and did not meet the threshold for a presidential disaster declaration. Indiana's threshold for a single incident is \$9.1 million.

Counties included in the request were Adams, Allen, Benton, Brown, Clark, Fulton, Huntington, Jay, Jefferson, Jennings, Marshall, Newton, Pulaski, Scott, Vermillion, Wabash, Warren, Washington and Wells.

Grants of this type, called public assistance, are for governments and certain non-profit organizations that provide essential government services. These grants will pay 75 percent of eligible expenses for damage to roads, bridges, utilities, buildings' contents and equipment, water control facilities, parks and recreational facilities, and others, as well as debris removal and emergency protective measures like traffic control and rescue operations in the aforementioned counties.

## Pediatric Hero Nominations

The Indiana Emergency Medical Services for Children (iEMSC) is looking for emergency medical professionals and groups that go above and beyond for children. As part of National EMSC Day in May 2016, iEMSC would like to honor health care providers, public safety workers and community leaders throughout the state who have provided excellent care to children.

Please take this opportunity to nominate community members who have provided exceptional care to children in the area(s) of: dispatch of emergency care, pre-hospital care, emergency/hospital care, public safety, community leadership, and pediatric community advocacy work.

Visit <http://www.indianaemsc.org/> for more information, or [access the nomination form directly](#). Pediatric Hero Nominations must be received on or before April 15, 2016. Pediatric Hero selections will be announced in late April 2016.

## Beware of Identity Theft, Data Breaches When Doing Holiday Shopping Online

Holiday shopping can be fun, but it can also put consumers at risk, especially if shopping online. It seems every day there is word of some new data breach or other form of identity theft. In all the holiday hustle and bustle, there are things consumers should take the time to do to help protect themselves against online scams and vulnerabilities. In fact, consumers should follow these common-sense practices all year long.

Here are a few tips to make holiday online shopping less of a risk:

- ◆ During the holidays, suspicious and unsolicited email advertisements and spam traffic increase. If consumers receive emails from unknown or unsolicited senders, they should delete the email without opening it;
- ◆ Remember, if an email offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. A supposed king from a far-away country really does not need anyone’s help getting millions of dollars over to the United States;
- ◆ Consumers should never open email attachments or embedded links from senders they do not know, during the holidays or anytime;
- ◆ Consumers should never send out sensitive information in an email. This information includes social security numbers, credit card numbers, passwords and bank account numbers;
- ◆ Everyone who goes online should keep virus protection and other computer security software updated;
- ◆ Consumers should avoid shopping on unknown websites. Stick to shopping only well-known, reputable sites; and
- ◆ Everyone should make sure their Internet connection is secure. Avoid shopping using public Wi-Fi locations.

Having multiple passwords for everything is a pain. However, passwords should be complex and not easily guessed by others. In today’s world, it’s just too risky to make a password from a pet’s name, a birthday or an address. One recent study by SplashData showed an alarming number of people still used “12345,” “12345678” or the word “password” for their password. Equally risky is using the same password for everything. Many sites tell consumers if a password is strong or weak and that advice should be heeded. A combination of numbers, letters, symbols and capitalizations makes a password stronger.

And one final set of advice for shoppers anywhere – make sure to print or save a paper copy of every transaction receipt in case there is confusion later about payment.

## Anderson and Muncie Firefighters Host “Fire Ops 101” Class

The professional firefighters of Anderson and Muncie recently put on a “Fire Ops 101” class to show elected officials and the media the ins and outs of emergency response professions, with a focus on firefighting and emergency medical services. Participants were sent through four one-hour scenarios, which included EMS and patient trauma, vehicle extraction, search and rescue, and a flashover experience.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security was on hand with the EMS skills lab to provide a realistic environment involving cardiac events and traumas.

Participants included city council members, chamber of commerce members, business owners, members of the media, local officials, and several local political candidates.



# Remain Aware When Shopping in Retail Outlets, Malls

During the busy holiday season, malls and retail outlets can be heavily crowded with shoppers, so it's important to review basic safety practices during this time of year.

Upon entering a store, shoppers should immediately locate possible exits in the event of an emergency, when it's easier to locate them. Sometimes exits are partially blocked by merchandise, shopping carts or other items. Notify a store employee if any exits are blocked.

If a fire alarm sounds, shoppers should leave their carts and immediately evacuate the building.

Overcrowded stores can create dangerous situations. Retail owners and managers should be aware of occupancy limits and attentive to overcrowding. If a building or store looks filled to capacity, notify a store employee and consider leaving the area. Building capacity limits exist for a reason.

Shoppers should always be aware of their surroundings any time of year. If it appears a crowd is gathering or there is some type of commotion, people should quickly leave the area instead of standing around and watching.

And shoppers should never place packages inside their car in visible locations. Place items in the trunk or put them out of sight.

## 2015 Jefferson County Full-Scale Emergency Exercise

On Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, the Jefferson Co. LEPC hosted the 2015 Jefferson County full-scale emergency exercise at Madison State Hospital which consisted of an active shooter and a very large chemical spill. The exercise was a massive undertaking with participants from numerous agencies including: Jefferson Co. LEPC, Jennings Co. LEPC, Madison Twp Fire Department, Madison City Fire Department, Jennings County Haz-Mat Team, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Madison Police Department, Madison State Hospital, King's Daughters' Hospital (KDH), KDH EMS, Jefferson County Health Department, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Jefferson County EMA, Switzerland County EMA, Madison City Street Department and Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

The scene played out as dozens of "victims" strewn about the parking lots where a gunman had opened fire injuring many and damaging fuel storage tanks causing a large

HazMat spill. The gunman took a hostage as Police and ERT team responded, but they quickly apprehended him and secured the area, and assisted EMS in rescuing victims with the assistance of their armored vehicle.

Agencies communicated and coordinated together to apprehend the shooter, rescue and decontaminate dozens of victims and clean up the large chemical spill to minimize environmental impact.

Community exercises give emergency responders the opportunity to work together to problem solve in different scenarios and find opportunities for improvement. The Jefferson County LEPC holds a full-scale community drill every other year; they host table-top exercises on alternating years.



The Jefferson County LEPC hosted an exercise at Madison State Hospital which included a chemical spill scenario. Student volunteers from Ivy Tech Community College and Hanover College played victims.

## ISP, IDHS Participate in Explosives Training

Members of Indiana State Police (ISP) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security participated in an Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) training exercise at the Mascatatuck Urban Training Center from Sept. 14-18. Each participant received hazardous materials recertification.



This type of training helps to provide members of EOD teams with the knowledge needed to properly handle and dispose of hazardous materials such as explosive devices and outdated chemicals. Demonstrations of equipment are also provided, often showing how disposal equipment is used, as well as how to properly utilize protective equipment.



ISP and IDHS participated in an explosives ordinance training exercise at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center from Sep. 14-18. In a variety of scenarios, participants used different resources such as explosive disposal robots (center) and bomb protection suits (right).

Participants in this training session engaged in different scenario-based exercises, using resources such as explosive detection K-9 units, X-ray systems, bomb protection suits and explosive disposal robots. These robots can be controlled from a separate area, away from an

explosive device, which helps to keep the operator and the rest of the EOD team away from any unnecessary risk.

agencies goes beyond training, as IDHS has provided protective equipment and various forms of analytical equipment in years past.

ISP and IDHS have participated in EOD training together since 1998. The partnership between the two

## State, Local Agencies Provide Assistance in Finding Missing Soldier

A missing soldier was found on Sep. 25 near Camp Atterbury (Edinburgh, Ind.) following a 14-hour search and rescue operation conducted by multiple state and local agencies.

The soldier – who was reported to be healthy condition following the incident – went missing during a land navigation exercise after having moved beyond the 1,000-acre course.

With 150 National Guard soldiers assisting in the initial search,

additional resources were coordinated by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Responding agencies and resources included local law enforcement, area firefighters and canine search and rescue teams. Overall, more than 200 emergency response personnel participated in the operation.

The soldier has more than a decade of service and was attempting to complete a six-week course as a warrant officer candidate, which is a designation of commissioned officers

who serve as highly skilled technical advisers in one of more than 40 specialties.

The land navigation training exercise is the final portion of the officer course. Each candidate is given a compass and points on a map they need to find. The 1,000-acre navigation course is a heavily wooded area with some hills. The course is designed to be challenging, and typically takes three to four hours to complete.

## IDHS Holds Train-the-trainer Fire Safety Courses

From Sept. 16-18, The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) helped to provide a series of training exercises for firefighters and instructors from across the state, all with the purpose of helping them to have a better understanding of how to respond to propane-fueled fires.

The event, known as “Propane Fire Training: Train the Trainer,” was overseen by IDHS Fire Training Section Chief Brandon Wood. The exercise provided the participants with a better understanding of how a propane-fueled fire should be handled, along with how to train others in a similar fashion. In total, 44 people took part in the training, representing all 10 IDHS districts within the state.

“This training is vital for the first responders in the state,” said Wood. “The biggest goal of this exercise was to make sure that there is consistency and accuracy in the way everyone is trained when it comes to propane fires.”

The three-day event was made possible in part by an Assistance for Firefighters Grant (AFG), courtesy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This was the first AFG application by IDHS that was approved by FEMA during Wood’s time as fire training section chief. The grant allowed for the purchase of 16 total propane training props, all of which will be stored at various locations around the state for easy access when future training needs arise.

Other groups credited with helping to facilitate the exercise included the IDHS fire and building safety and grants and fiscal sections, the Department of Corrections, along with Kirila Fire Company, who supplied the propane props that were purchased and used during the exercises. Ferrellgas provided propane to be used by the props. Fire engines that assisted in providing water tankers for the exercised included the Indianapolis Fire Department, Whiteland Fire Department from Johnson County and White River Township of Johnson County.

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## The Three P’s of Securing Social Media

Cyber-attacks are a real and present threat to the cyber security of government and public safety social media accounts. When it comes to social media accounts, passwords, people, and planning are three keys to strengthen security.

### PASSWORDS

Using strong passwords for social media and email accounts is a good defense against cyber-attacks. Passwords should be at least 20 characters long (if the site allows), that includes letters, numbers, special characters and capitalization.

Twitter, Facebook, etc. use email for password resets and official communication. It’s important to change email passwords, and use a password different from social media account passwords. If possible, use a

.gov or other private-domain account, which will generally be more secure than a public service, and will reduce the possibility of password-reset and other emails being intercepted.

Change passwords regularly. Set a reminder to change passwords every 30, 60 or 90 days.

Never send passwords via email, even internally.

### PEOPLE

Minimize the number of people who have access to the account. Even if a third-party platform is used to avoid sharing the actual account passwords, each staff member is a possible avenue to compromise the account.

Make sure to log out of social media accounts when using a computer or mobile device that is shared with other people.

Change passwords as soon as a staff member who had social media access leaves the organization.

### PLANNING

Just like any type of incident, have a cybersecurity plan in place. This includes the notifications and steps to take if a social media account is suspected of being compromised.

Also have a social media policy for the agency that regulates how accounts are used and who has access to them.

## Nearly 700,000 Hoosiers Registered to Participate in 2015 ShakeOut

Nearly 700,000 Hoosiers registered to participate in the 2015 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill – the most out of 14 states in the Central U.S. region.

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is an opportunity for participants from Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Louisiana, Iowa and Tennessee to practice what to do in an earthquake. More than 3 million people in the Central U.S. registered for this year's ShakeOut, and worldwide registrations topped 40 million.

Indiana's 2015 total for ShakeOut registrations represents a significant increase from 2014, when 485,000 Hoosiers registered.

Indiana is exposed to a serious threat of earthquakes along the New Madrid Seismic Zone - located 180 miles southwest of Evansville -- and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone, which encompasses parts of Southeastern Illinois and Southwestern Indiana.

Practicing what to do ahead of time is critical to earthquake safety, and the ShakeOut educates participants on how to get prepared. In the event of an earthquake, Hoosiers should drop, take cover under a sturdy object like a desk or table and hold on until the shaking stops. Those unable to drop due to a disability or other condition should get as low as possible and protect the head and neck.

Since long periods of time can pass between damaging earthquakes, it can be easy to become complacent. Nobody knows when a major earthquake will occur, so this makes preparation – particularly the work of emergency preparedness officials – even more critical.

Indiana's participants came from local and state government organizations, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, public libraries, businesses, healthcare facilities, youth organizations and county emergency management agencies among several others.

IDHS thanks all emergency responders who participated in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut for doing their part to help Hoosiers get prepared for earthquakes.

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## Wayne Township Fire Department Acquires 2 UAVs

The Wayne Township Fire Department has purchased two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and is now training several of its firefighters to use them in a variety of emergency situations, including search and rescue, missing persons, structure fires and hazmat situations.

The UAVs are roughly two square feet in size, GPS-capable, camera-equipped and have a flight time of 24 minutes. The operator uses an iPad with a console device attached to control the UAV.

Wayne Township Fire Department spokesperson Mike Pruitt says these UAVs are the same kind available to consumers, but Wayne Township's UAV operators will receive a higher level of preparation and training than the average user.

Wayne Township firefighters have already completed a week of hands-on training, and Pruitt says the goal is to have the program operational by early fall, which means that the Federal Aviation Administration must approve the program and all UAV operators must pass the private pilot's exam.

The UAV's camera can give responders a 360-degree view of an incident. Pruitt said having that kind of view "is going to be huge" and will be useful anytime a situation is too dangerous to send in personnel.

Pruitt says the overall goal of the \$14,000 investment is safety. He said decisions about how to approach an incident will now be able to be based on more sound knowledge about what's truly happening.



"I realize there is some controversy around some uses of UAVs," Pruitt said, "But I can tell you we are taking every step to ensure their proper usage, we now have extensive training and they will help us continue to make safety our top priority."

# Fire Marshal, IDHS Lead Statewide Fire Prevention Week



Above: Firefighters Josh Lemmon (Fairview Park Volunteer Fire Department) and Jeremy Decker (Dana Volunteer Fire Department) dress in full gear to talk with students about fire safety. Chief Klinge explained that firefighters may look or sound funny, but it's important to know that they're here to help.

Top Left: State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson pulled the alarm to start a fire drill at Madison Jr. High in Madison, Ind., as part of Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 4-11). The Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the State Fire Marshal use Fire Prevention Week each year to remind Hoosiers to take precautions to prevent fires and to be prepared in the event of a fire.



Bottom Left: State Fire Marshal Greeson visited the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, and Holy Cross College to discuss fire safety with students and faculty.

## Mission

*The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will provide statewide leadership, exemplary customer service, and subject matter expertise for the enhancement of public and private partnerships and the assurance of local, state and federal collaboration to continually develop Indiana's public safety capabilities for the wellbeing and protection of our citizens, property and economy.*

## Contact

*The Hoosier Responder* is a publication of The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information Office at (317) 234-6713 or [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).

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